TED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council urges States to arrest persons believed responsible for acts within jurisdiction of International Tribunal for Rwanda.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says international community should consider options for UNOMIL's continued presence in Liberia.

+ Secretary-General begins official visit to Austria; meets President, Chancellor and Foreign Minister; says United Nations will maintain strong presence in Vienna.

+ Cooperation in peace-keeping between United Nations and regional organizations must adapt to changing world situation, Secretary-General says.

+ Fighting breaks out between Somali factions over control of port and airport facilities in Mogadishu.

+ Human Rights Commission warned that indigenous peoples in some countries could face extinction.

+ International Narcotics Control Board releases 1994 report reviewing effectiveness of drug control treaties.

+ DPI publishes third in "blue book" series titled: The United Nations and Nuclear Non-Proliferation.

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The Security Council today urged States to arrest and detain persons found in their territory, against whom there was sufficient evidence of responsibility for acts within the jurisdiction of the International Tribunal for Rwanda. It urged States to take such action in accordance with their own national laws and relevant standards of international law, pending prosecution by the Tribunal.

In unanimously adopting resolution 978 (1995), the Council urged States to inform the Secretary-General and the prosecutor of the Tribunal of the

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identity of those detained, the crimes they are believed to have committed, the evidence proving probable cause, and the date and place of their detention. States were also urged to cooperate with the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as investigators for the International Tribunal in securing unimpeded access to the detainees.

The Council condemned violent acts against people in refugee camps near Rwanda's borders and called on States to prevent the attacks. It also urged States, where serious acts of violence had taken place, to arrest and detain persons against whom there was sufficient evidence of having incited or participated in the violence. The detainees should be surrendered to the appropriate authorities for prosecution, and States should keep the Secretary-General informed.

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The time had come to consider carefully how the international community could continue assisting the search for peace and stability in Liberia, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a progress report to the Security Council dated 24 February, the Secretary-General said the peace process in the country was once again at a standstill, and the Council would have to consider a number of options when the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) expired on 13 April.

The Secretary-General said that if the Liberian parties demonstrated a clear willingness to implement the Accra agreement signed last December, the Council could maintain UNOMIL under its current mandate. He stressed that the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) would have to be given the necessary resources for that option to be viable. The Council could also consider an enhanced United Nations role in Liberia through the establishment of a peace-keeping force to help the parties implement all aspects of the Accra agreement.

However, if the current political stalemate continued, the Secretary-General said the Council could consider two other options. UNOMIL's military component could be reduced, limiting the Mission's mandate to providing good offices, until the parties demonstrated the necessary political will to reactivate the peace process. Or, the Council could withdraw UNOMIL, which would signal to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Liberian people that the international community had given up its effort to help find a peaceful solution to the conflict. Whichever option was chosen, the international community would need to continue its active role in providing humanitarian assistance, the Secretary-General said.

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The Secretary-General began his official visit to Austria today by meeting with Foreign Minister Alois Mock, according to a United Nations spokesman. Later, he met with President Thomas Klestil and Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. During their discussions, Mr. Mock expressed his appreciation to the Secretary-General for visiting Austria so early in the United Nations

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fiftieth anniversary year and said his Government hoped Vienna would be strengthened as a seat of the Organization.

The Secretary-General said he intended to maintain a strong United Nations presence in the city and expressed his gratitude to the Austrian Government for its commitment and support over the last 40 years. The two men also discussed the situation in the former Yugoslavia, and the Secretary-General stressed the only solution to the conflict was continued negotiations on a political settlement, while maintaining a strong United Nations presence.

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In Somalia, inter-clan fighting in Mogadishu yesterday occurred between a joint committee set up by rival factions to secure the port and airport and some elements of General Mohammed Farah Aideed's faction, according to a United Nations spokesman. The joint committee had agreed to secure the arrangement in cooperation with local police, but reinforced by their own "technicals". The spokesman said it appeared that General Aideed sent some of his own "technicals" who engaged with those from the other factions and the local police and were driven from the area.

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The United Nations and regional organizations could contribute effectively to peace-keeping within a regional framework, if they took a rigorous approach and were capable of envisaging new forms of institutional cooperation, the Secretary-General said today. Speaking at the University of Vienna, where he was awarded an honourary Doctorate of Law, the Secretary-General said cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations must adapt to an ever-changing world situation.

However, the Secretary-General stressed that the diversified cooperation taking place between regional organizations and the United Nations should not lead to a questioning of the basic principles set forth in Chapter VIII of the Charter. The Security Council had primary responsibility for maintaining peace and security and that must remain the case.

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Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchu Tum has said indigenous peoples are in danger of extinction in certain countries. Addressing the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, she called for a mechanism to monitor their rights and to promote resolution of conflicts involving indigenous peoples. She also called on the Commission to give its full support to the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. Its adoption would constitute one of the first steps in the Programme of Action of the International Decade of Indigenous Peoples.

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The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) released its 1994 report today with recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of international drug control Conventions. The Board regularly reviews the world drug scene and international compliance with three treaties: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol; the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

In its report, the Board said the three Conventions were crucially important for effective international action, but some provisions were not effective enough or were misunderstood. However, the key to preventing drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotics was universal adherence to existing treaties, not the drawing up of new instruments, according to the report. The international drug control system must be dynamic enough to react rapidly to the fast changing world-drug scene.

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The Department of Public Information (DPI) has published the United Nations and Nuclear Non-Proliferation, the third volume in the "blue books" series. It is an in-depth look at the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) -- the cornerstone of efforts by the international community to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. It features a comprehensive collection of historic and United Nations documentation and other materials relating to the Treaty and the non-proliferation régime.

The "blue books" cover major developments in international relations of the past five decades in which the United Nations has played a leading role. The series is devised to provide primary research and reference tools to historians, policy makers, journalists and others interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the work of the United Nations in peace and security.

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